

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 06762 061613Z

62

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4786

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6762

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS KN ET

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION TO ETHIOPIA// DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS ESTABLISHED

REF: (A) ADDIS 6495; (B) SEOUL 4047

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. ETHIOPIAN MEDIA REPORTED JUNE 5 MEETING BETWEEN NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO SUDAN MR. PAK SUNG II AND PMAC CHAIRMAN BG TEFERI BANTI. ALSO PRESENT DURING THE TALKS, WHICH WERE ON "RELATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND NORTH KOREA," WERE FOREIGN MINISTER KIFLE WODAJO AND GETACHEW KIBRET, MOFA PERMANENT SECRETARY.

2. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY EMBOFF, HEAD OF MOFA ASIAN DEPARTMENT STATED THE EPMG HAD NOTHING TO SAY REGARDING THE NORTH KOREAN VISIT BUT "MIGHT MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN SEVERAL DAYS."

END UNCLASSIFIED.

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 06762 061613Z

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3. SOUTH KOREAN COUNSELOR YANG GAVE EMBOFF A COPY OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH, HE SAID, WAS SIGNED (BUT NOT ANNOUNCED) JUNE 5 BY REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH KOREA AND THE EPMG. THE COMMUNIQUE DECLARES THAT BOTH NATIONS DESIRING "TO DEVELOP THEIR RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION IN ALL FIELDS IN THE INTEREST AND WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLES OF THEIR TWO COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY, NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF EACH OTHER'S COUNTRY, RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF EACH OTHER HAVE AGREED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND EXCHANGE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL BETWEEN ADDIS ABABA AND PYONGYANG." AMBASSADOR PAK AND FONMIN KIFLE SIGNED FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

4. SOUTH KOREAS HAVE CAREFULLY CULTIVATED MOFA CONTACTS AND, THEREFORE, ARE WELL-INFORMED ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF ETHIOPIA-KOREAN RELATIONS. EMBOFF ASKED YANG WHAT ETHIOPIA HAD RECEIVED IN EXCHANGE FOR ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. YANG REPLIED THAT ECONOMIC AID WILL BE DISCUSSED DURING THE FORTHCOMING VISIT BY A NORTH KOREAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION IN JULY. HE NOTED THAT DURING NORTH KOREAN-EPMG DISCUSSIONS IN FEBRUARY 1975, THE NORTH KOREANS HAD DENIED TRAINING ANTI-ETHIOPIAN SOMALI GUERRILLAS. AT THAT TIME, MOFA OFFICIALS REPORTED TO THE PMAC THAT GIVEN THE NORTH KOREAN ATTITUDE, IT WAS "TOO EARLY FOR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS." YANG'S MOFA SOURCES NOW REPORT THAT ALTHOUGH THE SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED, THE PMAC HAD ORDERED MOFA TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. YANG BELIEVES THE NORTH KOREANS WILL SET UP SHOP IN ADDIS BY MID-AUGUST.

5. ALTHOUGH THE COMPOSITION OF THE NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION HAS NOT BEEN PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED, YANG STATED THAT IN ADDITION TO AMBASSADOR PAK IT INCLUDED KIM SU MAN, SECOND SECRETARY, NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY, KAMPALA, WHO HAS VISITED ADDIS SEVERAL TIMES AND PAK MYONG GON WHO "MAY BE A COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER FROM PYONGYANG."

6. ETHIOPIAN-SOUTH KOREAN RELATIONS HAVE COOLED RECENTLY. ETHIOPIA HAS REFUSED A SOUTH KOREAN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EXHIBITION BEGINNING JUNE 25 WHICH WAS TO INCLUDE ALL KOREAN
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PAGE 03 ADDIS 06762 061613Z

WAR PARTICIPANTS. IN ADDITION, THE EPMG HAS NOT YET APPOINTED REPLACEMENTS FOR THE TWO ETHIOPIAN LIAISON OFFICERS TO SOUTH KOREA (UNC) WHOSE TERMS END THIS MONTH.

8. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF OBVIOUS MOFA FOOT DRAGGING, THE PMAC HAS MOVED AHEAD TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. WHILE IT IS PROBABLE THAT SOME NORTH KOREAN ECONOMIC AID FOR ETHIOPIA WILL RESULT, IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT NORTH KOREA WILL CEASE AIDING

SOMALI GUERRILLAS.

WYMAN

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